

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Sitka****Project Title:**

Sitka - Sitka High School Auditorium Completion and Theatre Equipment Purchase

State Funding Requested: \$ 800,000**House District: 2 - A**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Completion funding for community performing center and high school auditorium; including lighting and safety rigging.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$1,800,000**

	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
Rasmuson Foundation	\$880,000					
Local Funds	\$139,000					
Total	\$1,019,000					

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Item is \$800,000 to complete community performing arts center and high school auditorium in Sitka. The center will provide space for school and community activities, and allow Sitka to attract performing artists. The Sitka Fine Arts Camp has been recognized by the President and won national awards for outstanding programs in the arts. This facility will allow for expanded opportunities for youth in Sitka. Funding will complete the final phase of this ongoing community project, and will consist of purchasing necessary safety equipment, as well as electrical work and lighting.

Project Timeline:

FY09

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

City of Sitka or Designee

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Jim Dinley
 Phone Number: (907) 747-1808
 Address: 100 Lincoln Street Sitka, AK 99835
 Email: jimdinley@cityofsitka.com

Total Project Snapshot Report

FY 2009 Capital Budget

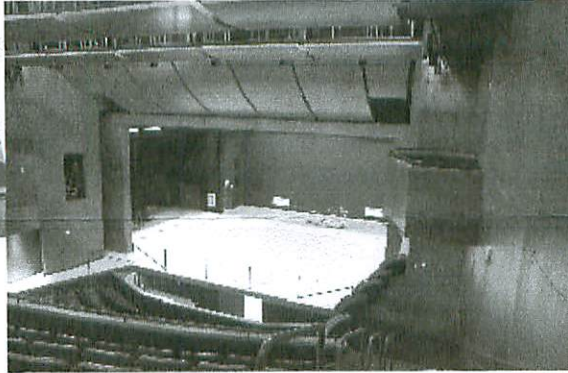
TPS Report 48023

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No

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FRIENDS OF THE PERFORMING ARTS, INC

P.O. Box 6009, Sitka, Alaska 99835 907-747-3024



March 19, 2008

Governor Sarah Palin
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001


Dear Governor Palin,

Please allow the Supplemental Legislative Funding Request of \$800,000, to fund the Sitka High School Auditorium Project which is contained in SB256, to be implemented. Our entire community is anxiously awaiting the completion of this facility. This \$800,000 in capital funding would allow us to purchase and install the remaining audio-visual equipment and theatrical equipment; as well as to supply the many other important needs in the costume rooms, dressing rooms, office and lobby.

Sitkans voted overwhelmingly to support this project in both the spring 2003 Bond Issue and the fall 2004 fund transfer request elections. Our local non-profit has raised over \$139,000 in community cash contributions. We have also sought and received funding from the Rasmuson Foundation. Nonetheless, due to unprecedented inflation in construction costs our project needs this funding.

Your support for this supplemental capital funding (SB256) would be forever appreciated. With this additional assistance from the Alaska Legislature, we would at last be able to complete our performance center and begin using it for events such as the Sitka Fine Arts Camp held annually in June and July.

Sincerely yours,



Kristy Kissinger-Totten, President
Friends of the Performing Arts, Inc.

cc: Senator Bert Stedman



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*A great nation
deserves great art.*



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EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 11 A.M.

Media Contacts: Sarah Hiller
Widmeyer Communications
202-667-0901
sarah.hiller@widmeyer.com

Jara Kern
Sitka Fine Arts Camp
718-926-4942 (Cell)
jara@fineartscamp.org

MRS. LAURA BUSH TO PRESENT NATIONAL COMING UP TALLER AWARD TO SITKA FINE ARTS CAMP

Youth, adult program representatives will travel to Washington, D.C. for a January 28 event at the White House

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) Sitka Fine Arts Camp—a nonprofit dedicated to offering students in remote, Alaskan towns the opportunity to explore and strengthen their artistic skills—is being recognized nationally as one of 18 youth arts and humanities programs to receive the prestigious 2007 *Coming Up Taller Award*. Youth and adult representatives of the initiatives will travel to Washington, D.C. for a Monday, January 28 ceremony in the East Room of the White House, which will begin at 9:30 a.m. Mrs. Laura Bush will present the awards.

Members of the media interested in attending the event who do not have a White House Press Credential must fax his or her name (as it appears on his or her driver's license), Social Security number and date of birth on company letterhead to (202) 456-1523 no later than 6:00 pm on Friday, January 25, 2008. Pre-set for electronic media is 8:00 a.m. All media will be escorted from the West Wing driveway to the East Room at 8:45 a.m. A multibox will be provided. For additional credentialing or logistical questions, please call Mrs. Bush's Press Office at (202) 456-6313.

Coming Up Taller is an initiative of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH). The President's Committee partners with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to administer the program, which was founded in 1998.

The Coming Up Taller Awards recognize and support outstanding community arts and humanities programs that celebrate the creativity of young people, and provide them with new learning opportunities and a chance to contribute to their communities. The awards also highlight the contributions that historians, scholars, librarians and visual and performing artists make to families and communities by mentoring children. More than 350 nominations were received by the program in 2007.

“Arts and humanities activities have a wonderful way of enabling young people to discover their unique talents and interests while forging a path to success in school and life,” said Adair Margo, Chairman of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. “Sitka Fine Arts Camp cultivates students' interest in and appreciation for arts, empowering them to transform artistic experience into skills and inner strength, which are the groundwork for success.”

Through its intensive summer classes, Sitka Fine Arts Camp offers students from across Alaska—and even across the country—arts education and interaction with working artists. The camp offers a one-week session for local elementary school students and two-week sessions for middle and high school students. Students can choose from more than 60 different classes in music, visual arts, dance, writing, theater, Alaskan Native art, and art technology. Students take five 90-minute classes each day and attend live performances by faculty in the evenings. The sessions culminate in exhibitions of students' projects, as well as performances, all of which are open to the public.

Once a camper himself, Executive Director Roger Schmidt explains, "For 32 years now, Sitka Fine Arts Camp has illuminated and nurtured the creative spark innate in all children." Like many of today's campers, Schmidt grew up in a small town in Alaska. "Camp opened my eyes to the exciting world of arts. It opened a passion in me and gave me the confidence to pursue a career in music that has led me all over the world and ultimately back to the camp. Just as I was, campers are thrilled to discover talents and interests they never knew they had, from Shakespeare and Athabascan beadwork to clowning and hip hop dance. We are deeply grateful to the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities for their recognition and this prestigious award."

Classes focus on the process as well as the product, and foster group interaction, self-discipline, self-discovery and creative risk-taking. For example, students in last year's music composition class partnered with students in the choreography class to write music for an original dance called "The Three Little Pigs." In this class, as in others, "We could be as creative as we wanted," describes TJ Agne, an eighth-grader who has attended Sitka Fine Arts Camp for three years now. Camp has helped Agne tremendously as a musician: playing in the bands and music classes "has helped with my range and my tone. I was doing more of the things great musicians always say, like 'listen more, play more steadily, use more air.'" He also said that the influx of strong young musicians, especially fellow trombone players, helped inspire him to work harder and achieve greater musical heights.

Agne is one of 400 students who participated in Sitka Fine Arts Camp last year. Despite the large number of campers, Sitka Fine Arts Camp succeeded in providing one faculty member for every six students, guaranteeing ample opportunity for personal interaction among students and teachers. Past faculty members have included a feature-film composer, an Emmy-nominated film animator, jazz recording soloists, and esteemed Alaska Native artists.

The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities bridges the interests of federal agencies and the private sector, supports special projects that increase participation, and helps incorporate the humanities and the arts into White House objectives. The National Endowment for the Arts is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, both new and established; bringing the arts to all Americans; and providing leadership in arts education. Because democracy demands wisdom, the National Endowment for the Humanities serves and strengthens our Republic by promoting excellence in the humanities and conveying the lessons of history to all Americans. The Institute of Museum and Library Services is an independent federal grant making agency dedicated to creating and sustaining a nation of learners.

For more information please visit the following Web sites:

Sitka Fine Arts Camp: www.fineartscamp.org

Coming Up Taller: www.cominguptaller.org

President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities: www.pcah.gov

National Endowment for the Arts: www.arts.gov

National Endowment for the Humanities: www.neh.gov

Institute of Museum and Library Services: www.ims.gov

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